

PROPOSED PLAN



JULY 2015

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. We are committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws give the Corps the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate the process we must follow. We conduct investigations to determine the potential risk to people and the environment from the military's use of the property. Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. The Corps partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

BACKGROUND

The former Camp Blanding Military Reservation was located in Clay County, southwest of Jacksonville. The Army began constructing the military reservation in 1939 as a division-sized training camp and reception area, but it grew in size and significance during World War II (WWII). The Army constructed a complete infantry training facility with more than 800 buildings including a large hospital and a prisoner-of-war camp along with other improvements such as roads, electrical systems and water and sewer systems. The site encompassed more than 160,000 acres, the equivalent of the fourth largest city in Florida, at that time. Troops were trained in infantry tactics, offensive and defensive combat and battlefield situations. Following the end of WWII, the Army no longer needed the large training area, and the land was deeded to various public and private entities. The Florida National Guard utilizes about 73,000 acres of the original reservation for the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area is within the Formerly Used Defense Site.

All of the areas that were used for munitions training during WWII are within the Joint Training Center. The land outside of the current Joint Training Center was used as maneuver areas. The purpose of the maneuver area was to allow for large-scale troop movement. There is no evidence that live munitions were used in the maneuver area.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

A number of studies have been conducted on the former Military Reservation over the years, most recently, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The purpose of the study was to characterize the nature and extent of potential WWII-era related items, or in other words, to determine what may be present and where it is. The focus of this investigation was the 53-acre former Anti-Tank Rocket and Rifle Grenade Range. This area is about a half mile north of Kingsley Lake and is bounded on the north by Woodbury Road, to the south by State Road 16, Giddens Road on the west and Barker Road to the east.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Camp Blanding Military Reservation

The Remedial Investigation fieldwork included searching for munitions and collecting environmental samples to test for munitions constituents, the metals and explosives that comprise munitions. Crews dug 1,532 metallic objects to determine if they were munitions-related, and 1,418 were pieces of munitions (known as munition debris) and 2 were munitions (a 2.36 inch anti-tank rocket and a rifle grenade). Eight surface water, six sediment, and four groundwater samples were collected. The samples were analyzed for explosives and metals associated with the munitions used at the site, and the amounts detected were compared to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's limits. While copper and iron were detected in soil above the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's residential limits, the amounts detected were well below commercial/industrial limits. Two explosives were detected well below residential limits but above the level that could potentially pose a risk to groundwater. Further test did not detect the explosives. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report concluded there are no risks to people or the environment from munitions constituents; however, there is a high probability that munitions are present at this range.



PROPOSED PLAN AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The next step in the federally mandated process is a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan presents the recommendations and alternatives to address areas of concern. Because there is a high potential that people could encounter munitions at the former Anti-Tank Rocket and Rifle Grenade Range, the Corps recommends an additional investigation to search for and remove munitions within the entire former Anti-Tank Rocket and Rifle Grenade Range.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The Corps encourages you to comment on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period. Please submit your comments no later than 5:00 pm on August 10, 2015, by calling (toll free) 866.279.4880, by emailing FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil or by mailing your comments to US Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Bill Spence (CESAJ-PM-M), 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207. Mail postmarked by August 10, 2015, will be accepted. Public comments received during this period will be considered in the decision-making process.

SAFETY FIRST: Remember the 3Rs

Because of how the military used the site, munitions may potentially be present. These could be dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs. **RECOGNIZE** - The item you found could be dangerous. **RETREAT** - Do not touch it in any way, and leave the area. **REPORT** - Call 911 immediately.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Documents are available at the
Middleburg-Clay Hill Public Library
2245 Aster Avenue, Middleburg, FL 32068
Telephone: 904.541.5855

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